

burthensome, which might be greatly lessened by a due regulation and employment of them.

SEC. 2, 3. Provided for the building of a poor-house, and laying an assessment of a poll tax, payable in tobacco, for 1774 and 1775.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That for the time being the five several persons hereafter named, be and are hereby nominated, appointed and named, trustees for the poor within the said county, and are empowered with full and sufficient authority to discharge the several offices, duties and trusts, reposed in and required of them by this act; that is to say, Colonel George Plater, Colonel Abraham Barnes, Major Zachariah Bond, Mr. John Reeder and Mr. James Jordan; the which persons, so nominated, appointed, authorized and named, for the county as aforesaid, or the major part of them in case of the death or absence of any, are hereby required, with all convenient speed, to meet at such places within their county as to them shall seem meet, to qualify themselves for the office of trustees for the poor of their county, which they are to do by taking the several oaths appointed by law to be taken to the government, signing the oath of abjuration, and repeating and signing the test, and also taking the following oath, to wit: 'I, A. B. do swear, that I will duly and faithfully discharge the duties and trust committed to me as a trustee for the poor for Saint Mary's county, according to the best of my skill and knowledge, and an act of assembly, entitled, an act for the relief of the poor in Saint Mary's county; so help me God;' the which oath is to be administered by any of the four persons last named for the county to the person first named, or in his absence to any one of the three persons first named that shall be there present, the which person being sworn as aforesaid, shall administer the oaths afore-mentioned to all the rest, and so successively, the person first named that shall be present shall always administer the said oaths to any that have been absent, or that shall hereafter be elected and chosen pursuant to the directions of this act to supply the place of any that shall be dead, or removed out of the county, or of any who shall refuse or neglect to qualify and act as a trustee, when elected and chosen pursuant to the directions of this act; and the aforesaid persons, or the major part of them, being sworn as aforesaid, shall be constituted and qualified as trustees for the poor of their said county, and as such are hereby invested with full power and authority, as a body politic, to plead and be impleaded, to sue and be sued, to defend and be defended, to answer and be answered, by the name of The Trustees for the Poor for Saint Mary's County, in all and every cause, complaint and action, real, personal or mixed, of whatsoever kind or nature it shall be, in any of the courts of judica-

Trustees
appointed,
&c.